

WILMA CHAN

Seeking Position of: Alameda County Board of Supervisor, District 3

www.votewilmachan.com

- 1. If elected, what are your top priorities during your term? What would you like to accomplish and how would you go about doing so? Please be specific.***

If elected, my top immediate priority will be working to protect the community from state and county budget cuts. My top policy priorities will be healthcare, children's services and the elderly. District 3 also includes high numbers of Asian American residents, including the Oakland Chinatown community. Oakland Chinatown has many needs including land use issues and pedestrian safety – I will work with the community on these issues. I also want to increase the civic and voter participation of Asian Americans throughout the district.

On healthcare, with the passage of healthcare reform, the County will have the opportunity to restructure its entire system. The number of uninsured seen by the County hospital will drop by 50K people. This is an opportunity to provide better access and care. Community clinics in my district will also have increased opportunities.

For children, I would like to continue working on the children's budget and help Every Child County transition as tobacco funds dry up. For the elderly, I want to do a needs assessment in District 3 and improve the delivery of services.

- 2. How have you in the past and how will you in the future use your position to expand the presence and influence of Asian Pacific Americans in public policy and politics?***

I have spent over 40 years fighting to expand the presence and influence of APAs in public policy and politics. I taught the first course in Asian American Stereotypes at the Kennedy School at Harvard in 1970! I have supported numerous Asian candidates over the years – from Gary Yee to Danny Wan to Lena Tam to Anna Muh, Garrett Yee, Ken Chew, etc. etc. – all over the Bay Area. I secured the appointment of Alice Lai-Bitker to the County Board when I left for the State to assure the seat would remain within the APA community. I was the first Asian American elected to the Oakland School Board and the County. I was one of the first Chinese Americans to be elected to the Assembly after 25 years and the first high ranking (Majority Leader) member- opening the way for Leland Yee, Fiona Ma and others.

- 3. What have you done that demonstrates your commitment to and effectiveness in promoting Asian Pacific American interests in the following areas (and if you have not contributed in these areas, please discuss any area(s) in which you have made a contribution):***

I am proud of my work in all of these areas. This spans a period of 40 years. I have just listed a few examples below.

Education: fought to implement the first Asian American Studies Programs in the country during the late '60s and early '70s. Fought against discriminatory policies by UC. Worked in the Oakland Schools to keep childcare centers serving the Asian community open and worked to create racial harmony in Oakland Schools when there was tension between Asian Americans and African Americans. Carried numerous bills and initiatives to improve education overall thus benefiting Asian Americans students. Carried to a bill and found funding to make the State provide translations to Chinese parents. These are just a few examples.

Healthcare: Fought to increase funding to community-based agencies serving the Asian community. I have been an outspoken advocate regarding health disparities – for example the need for more liver research funding for the Asian American communities. Introduced legislation regarding the need for culturally and linguistically appropriate services at hospitals. Enacted over 15 pieces of legislation to help consumers and patients, many of whom are Asian Americans.

Civil Rights: Supported and co-sponsored numerous pieces of legislation on hate crimes. Back in the 1980's led local efforts surrounding the Vincent Chin case. At the County, implemented a bi-lingual voting system and putting translators at Chinatown polls. Working on translation issues in the Social Services Department. Supported and participated in hundreds of immigrant's rights actions. Passed a resolution denouncing Kobol's remarks on Japanese Americans.

Business: Formed and chaired the Select Committee on Asian Trade in the Assembly. We held numerous hearings with outreach to Bay Area Asian businesses. At the County, signed an incubator agreement between the County, State of California and Hong Kong to increase trade and investment. Held local workshops for small contractors on how to compete for County jobs.